

SOKATIRA MUNDIALA

Basque Country Tug of War World Championships

VERSION 1

Key Questions/Answers

Note: The guidelines established in this response may change going forward due to the constantly changing circumstances or rules. Updates will therefor be issued from time to time.

IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT IF ANYBODY – INDIVIDUALS AND/OR GROUP - TRANSGRESSES THE BUBBLE AND RELATED SAFETY COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS AND DIRECTIVES, TWIF AND THE GOC (Getxo Organizing Committee) WILL AGREE A SUITABLE SANCTION. THIS COULD INCLUDE SUSPENSION FOR FURTHER PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENT.

1. Web-site (<https://www.who.int/publications-detail/key-planning-recommendations-for-mass-gatherings-in-the-context-of-the-current-covid-19-outbreak>):

a. The web-site should focus on the scenario in Basque Country and not generic WHO information. How often will the web-site be updated?

The website will be updated when any changes are required.

b. How will participants be informed of updates?

The official channels available to the organization will be used. These include:

- the website www.sokatiramundiala.com
- The Facebook account: @SokatiraMundiala
- The Instagram account: sokatira_mundiala

c. How will participants know what information/aspect has changed or have been amended?

In the event of a significant change, we will announce it on the social networks and we will publish it in the News section of the website. Changes will be indicated in a different colour.

During the Championship all important news or changes will be done by whatsapp. In this whatsapp group one representative of each bubble will be included.

2. Prior to arrival

a. Exactly what documentation is required for individuals/groups to be allowed to enter Spain?

In addition to the usual Spanish visa regulations, travellers coming to Spain from abroad must complete **the Formulario de Control Sanitario (FCS)**, or “Health Control Form” during the coronavirus pandemic. This is an online form that asks the individual to provide information about themselves, their travel plans, and their health.

The QR code needed to enter the country is obtained by completing a **Spain travel health registration form online**. This must be done before travelling to Spain. More information and registration at: <https://www.spth.gob.es>

Once this Spain health form is completed, the FCS generates a QR code. This must be shown to an official at border control.

All people from the Schengen area will be able to access the country with the requirements of the EU digital certificate.

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b. Will vaccinated individuals be dealt with differently?

Yes, vaccinated passengers are allowed to enter Spain from 14 days after receiving the complete schedule for a drug approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) or the World Health Organization (WHO). Currently the following vaccines are administered in Spain —Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Janssen—, as well as the Chinese Sinopharm and Sinovac-Coronavac.

c. What protocols will be followed for participants from high risk countries? (Currently eg. India and South Africa)

From 7 June 2021, all those passengers from a country/area that has a SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus risk, must present, a certificate or document certifying vaccination against COVID-19 or a negative certificate of a Diagnostic Test of Active Infection or a certificate of Recovery after having passed this disease in order to enter Spain. This can be an EU Digital COVID Certificate, in the case of the EU, or a supporting document of those indicated above, whether the traveller arrives from an EU member state or from a third country. Children under 12 years of age are not required to present these certificates or supporting documents.

Once they comply with the entry requirements the protocol to follow for the participants of high risk countries during the championship, will be the same as any other competitor.

d. Travel/health insurance in some instances now seemingly excludes any Covid related benefits. How will participants be assisted to reduce/remove the risk of high treatment costs in Spain if required?

GOC requires each registered person to provide travel insurance that includes medical assistance for Covid.

e. What is the delimitation of a bubble and who is in it? Will this be agreed with each country as each Country may have different requirements e.g. completely separate clubs/teams in different weight classes.

The bubble is made up of the members of the same country. These will be grouped in the same hotel and they will have an exclusive transfer and their own area at the venue.

In the event that any club or country requires special treatment, this must be reported in advance to info@sokatiramundiala.com but in principle it is not viable that each club/team wants to be a unique bubble.

3. On Arrival

a. Will individuals/groups be received and assisted through customs/passport control by GOC officials?

Airport authorities do not allow any person from outside the airport to enter the airport and to intervene in the customs process. Duly accredited staff of the organization will be waiting for the group as soon as they leave the external area to welcome them and arrange their transfer to the hotel.

b. How will 'mixing' at the airport be prevented, particularly of ensuring 'high risk' countries and 'low risk' countries are separated? Are the Spanish authorities dealing with this?

The entry protocol in the airport does not consider a separation between high or low risk passengers.

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c. Transport – Will there be separate shuttle busses for each group/country?

Each bubble will have its exclusive transfer service between the airport and the hotels and between the hotels and the venue.

d. Attendants should be able to contact the organizers in case of emergency and to facilitate access to local healthcare services. Will such a service be available and will contact detail be provided to participants?

As well as the staff of the organization that will accompany each bubble in their trips and the help service at the venue, the organization will have a telephone help service during the championship that will deal with the possible incidents and emergencies.

4. Accommodation:

a. Will each group/country be accommodated in separate hotels?

The GOC will place all the teams in 5 or 6 different hotels. Some teams, due to the number of their members, will exclusively occupy a hotel (as well as other clients that the hotel may have) and others will have to share one hotel

b. If not, how would groups be separated/kept in bubbles with use of lifts and other facilities in the same hotel?

With the teams that share a hotel, the aim will be that they occupy different floors and the exclusive use of rooms for breakfast and dinner. In the use of common spaces (hall, cafeteria...) it will be the bubbles themselves that need to respect the safety distances.

5. Meals:

a. Breakfast/Dinner:

i. How will different groups be accommodated in the same area/restaurant?

The aim is that the bubbles have their exclusive space for the breakfasts and dinner, and in any event the compulsory safety distances will need to be maintained.

ii. How will the serving of meals be dealt with? If buffet type, how will contact/contamination risk be minimised?

According to the current regulations, it is not possible to have a buffet service, so everything must be served at the table and on individual plates. The people of the bubbles will be organized in groups of 6 per table, keeping the safety distance between the tables. Depending on the size of the spaces that the hotels have and the people that are staying in each of them, one or more eating shifts will be established.

b. How will Lunch/Meals/Refreshments at the competition venue be dealt with?

A catering company will provide each team with individual food kits in the area reserved for each team. The teams will also have sufficient water bottles for the whole the competition.

6. Weighing-in arrangements:

a. What are the weighing-in arrangements?

Weighing-in will be done on Wednesday in the official hotel where each delegation is staying and in the venue from Thursday. The weighing time will be communicated to each delegation in advance to avoid crowds and waiting. Arrangements may change subject to number of teams and available officials.

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b. How and where would boot inspections be done?

It will be performed on Wednesday in the venue from 2 pm. One representative of each club can go to the venue accompanied by the delegate of each bubble to perform the approval of the boots. The delegations that arrive after Wednesday will also do it at the venue.

c. What is the stamping arrangement before morning/afternoon competitions?

The maintenance will be required of the distances between the different bubbles.

7. What are the briefing arrangements?

The official briefing will be performed online on Wednesday 15 September at 9pm.

Taking advantage of the fact that the delegates will be at the venue on Wednesday with the approval of boots it is planned to carry out a short briefing on the field to visit the venue and the available resources.

8. How will open/closing ceremonies be dealt with?

The opening ceremony is planned to be held on Friday 17 September after the last medal presentation of the afternoon programme. This will likely include a parade of the different countries through the competition area, speeches by the authorities and some local cultural elements. The area will be perfectly limited so that it is not accessed by the public and the proper safety distances will be guaranteed.

The closing ceremony, initially planned at the end of the last medal ceremony on Sunday, 19 September, with short with the speeches by the authorities, and the delivery of the TWIF flag to the organizer of the next championship. The different teams, if they want to follow the act, may be in the competition area while maintaining the due distances.

9. When and how will medal ceremonies be dealt with?

The delivery of medals and trophies will be performed at the end of each competition block in the morning and in the afternoon. A person with a tray will hand out the medals to the third, second and first placed teams. Each athlete will collect their medals from the tray. After the anthem of the winning country (closed competition only) teams will abandon the podium without shaking hands.

10. Transport between accommodation and venue:

a. How will this be handled to ensure bubbles are not compromised?

Each bubble will have its own bus. The safety distances will be introduced and maintained at the point of entry. A person from the organization will accompany the group in the transfer.

b. How will daily health and temperature checks be dealt with?

In the hotel, and before entering the bus that takes them to the venue, the temperature will be taken of all the participants. A second check will be performed at the venue, at the entry to the competition area.

c. What will happen is temperature of an individual is above the threshold? What is the threshold temperature?

The threshold temperature is 37.5°. If the case is detected in the hotel, the individual cannot get onto the bus and must isolate in their room. In the event that it is detected at the venue they will be taken to the isolation area authorized in the venue until they can be taken back to the hotel. In both cases a PCR test will be performed.

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11. Competition arena:

a. Will a separate training area be available? If so, what are the arrangements for ropes and separation of groups?

There is a large warm-up area separate from the competition area, which will allow for training with compliance to social distancing.

b. Will there be adequately sized tents for each country/groups?

In the competition area each team will have a tent of 5x5 metres with at least one of the sides open for correct ventilation. Only 13 people can enter the competition tent: 8 pullers + 2 substitutes + trainer + assistant + masseur.

In the teams area, each bubble will have a large area to be in, with a size proportional to the number of people in the bubble.

12. PCR/Other testing:

a. How and when would PCR testing be done?

All those registered must have done a PCR test in their country of origin not more than 72 hours before their arrival. In the accreditation process they must show the result of the negative test in order to be able to obtain the accreditation.

On the arrival of the participants, and at a time agreed with the organization, an antigen test will be performed preferably in the hotel of the bubble. If positive, a PCR test will be performed. In the event that the PCR test is positive they will be isolated and will not be able to compete.

b. Who will pay for these tests? If participants, what is the estimated cost per test?

The cost of the test at origin is paid for by each participant/team. The antigens or PCR tests that are necessary during the stay of the teams will be paid by GOC.

c. What testing would be required for individuals/groups to return to their respective countries? Many countries require a negative PCR test to be within a 72 hour window prior to departure. What will the arrangements be for such test to be conducted? Who will pay for these tests? If the participants, what is the estimated cost per test?

On Saturday, 18 September a PCR test will be performed on any person who requires a negative result in order to return to their country. The test must be requested by each delegation before the arrival of the group in order to be able to organize the place and time of the test. The cost of the test will be assumed by the GOC.

d. Will any other/rapid testing be done during the course of the event? If so, how often and at whose expense? If at the expense of participants, what is the estimated costs of such rapid testing?

Apart from the antigens test on the arrival, no other test will be performed unless the participant shows symptoms of having been infected. In that case they will be given a test borne by the GOC.

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13. Positive tests:

a. What will happen to individuals who test positive? Where and how will they be quarantined? What is the expense associated with such quarantine?

All the people that are positive will immediately be isolated in their hotels. The insurance company will be called of the person who is positive and depending on the conditions of the policy and the situation of the patient, the decision will be taken on whether they continue to be isolated in the hotel or at a private medical centre or public medical centre depending on insurance coverage. The expenses will be borne by the insurance of the person who has tested positive.

Also, healthcare in the Basque Country is universal and free of charge and can be used in the event that emergency admission to an intensive care unit is required.

b. What happens to the individuals/groups such positives had contact with? How will contact tracing be done? How will such close contacts be identified and dealt with? How long and where will they need to isolate? What are the costs associated with such isolations and quarantine?

Close contacts will be considered the people who sleep in the same room and those that have not complied with the established measures on social distancing and use of masks whilst in contact with the positive person.

Close contacts will be isolated in a separate room and will be subjected to a PCR test at the organization's expense. Even if they test negative, they must remain isolated for at least 48 hours until a second test is performed. If the second test is negative, they will be allowed to return to the bubble.

If the roommate is vaccinated and if the first PCR test is negative, he/she can immediately return to the bubble. For this reason, it is recommended that where possible, an unvaccinated persons share a room with a vaccinated person to minimize the possibility of isolation.

The costs of the isolation will be covered by the travel insurance of each participant.

c. What will be the impact on continued participation of such individuals/groups after a positive test?

The people that test positive will not be able to compete and will have to remain in isolation until they test negative.

14. Medical treatment:

a. What is the extent and availability of medical treatment/hospitalisation if required?

The GOC has an agreement with a private clinic that will provide a service to the people that have travel insurance. In the event of an emergency there is always the possibility of attending the public health system for free.

b. Who would pay for such treatment?

The insurance of each attendee.

c. What is the estimated cost for such treatment?

Depending on the travel policy and the scope of the treatment, but normally it should be covered in full.

d. For how long will this treatment be provided?

To be determined by the medical team.

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15. Spectators:

a. Will spectators be allowed?

At present the public is allowed to access in a percentage of 40% of the capacity, provided that a distance of 1.5m is guaranteed between the spectators. The capacity of the venue stands is around 500 spectators.

b. If so, how will access to the arena be controlled?

The access will be controlled at all time by staff of the organization through a different door/access point to those used by the teams.

c. How will mixing between participants and spectators be prevented?

The area for the public is separated from the competition area, and therefore there can be no mixing. Only on the arrival of the bus can the bubbles coincide in the access area to the venue, in a large and outdoor space with the public.

16. Other:

a. How/where will chiro services be provided at the competition arena

In the teams area there will be a chiropractor service

b. How/where will medical services be provided at the competition arena

In the teams area there will be a medical care service available and an intensive care ambulance service.

c. May I remove my mask?

The use of masks will be compulsory at all time. It can only be removed when they are competing, at lunch time while keeping your distance and inside the hotel rooms.

e. Can I leave the hotel or the venue and move freely around the city?

NO. Any person who is inside the bubble must remain in the bubble. The organization provides all services. In the event that a person requires a specific item, he/she should request it to the people in charge of the organization.

AGAIN – PLEASE NOTE THAT APPROPRIATE STEPS WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST INDIVIDUALS AND/OR GROUPS WHO VIOLATE THE RULES AND DIRECTIVES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF PARTICIPANTS.